

11th December 1923]

Noes.

1. The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp.	24. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu.
2. " C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.	25. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiar.
3. " the Raja of Panagal.	26. Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar.
4. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Siva-gnanam Pillai.	27. " B. Obalesappa.
5. Mr. R. W. Davies.	28. " K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai.
6. " E. W. Legh.	29. " K. Raghuchandra Bellala.
7. " G. F. Paddison.	30. " P. T. Rajan.
8. " H. Tireman.	31. " P. S. Rajappa.
9. " J. A. Davis.	32. " B. Ramachandra Reddi.
10. " C. Nicholson.	33. Rao Bahadur P. Raman.
11. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur.	34. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
12. Mr. Ari Gowder.	35. " J. D. Samuel.
13. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar.	36. " K. Sarvarayudu.
14. " A. V. Bhanoji Rao.	37. " R. Srinivasan.
15. " Devendrudu.	38. Sir K. Venkatareddi Nayudu.
16. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.	39. Mr. P. V. S. Sundaramurti.
17. Mr. P. V. Gopalan.	40. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayananamurti Nayudu.
18. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.	41. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiar.
19. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu.	42. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi.
20. The Raja of Kurupam.	43. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi.
21. Hony. Lt Madurai.	44. Mr. M. Ratnaswami.
22. Mr. T. Mallesappa.	45. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.
23. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai.	

41 hon. Members voted for the motion, and 45 against.

The Motion was lost.

A COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN THE
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

12-15 p.m. Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I beg to move, Sir, with much better hopes this time :

4. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed to report on the best ways and means that can be adopted to improve the irrigation facilities in the Coimbatore district without much cost to the Government.*

“ In this resolution also, I am asking only for the appointment of a committee, and I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to consider that committees might be of some use even to the hon. Members of the Cabinet. Some seem to think that apart from themselves or apart from some people under their guidance in the conference ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If this preface is intended for me, I at once disclaim all responsibility for the assumption that committees are useless.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I thank the hon. Member, Sir. I was going to say that there are some members both honourable and otherwise (laughter)—I mean those Members of the Cabinet and those who are not—who seem to think that unless these things are put before a conference at the time of its deliberations, committees and such things are useless. But I am glad that the hon. the Law Member ”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member shall omit all personal insinuations.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ There is absolutely no personal insinuation, Sir. I referred to the opinions of officers which we are

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [11th December 1923

entitled to criticize, and I appealed to the hon. the Law Member as Law Member. I am glad he has anticipated me, and I am sure he is one of those who attach a good deal of weight to the opinions of the hon. Members of this House and of those persons whom he may appoint as members of committees. I therefore said by way of preface—I hope the hon. the Law Member will agree with me—that some people have not much faith in the appointment of committees.

"We know, Sir, that in the matter of irrigation the poor Coimbatore district is very unfortunate. The district of Coimbatore is one of those districts which has the largest extent of reserved forests. In fact, it is the second in the Presidency in having about 35 per cent of its area covered with reserve forests. The presumption is that reserve forests produce a good deal of rain, and I am not here to contradict that. Yet, unfortunately, in spite of the reserve forests, in spite of the heavy rain, we have got this melancholy state of things in the Coimbatore district, that irrigation facilities are the poorest. Practically, Sir, so far as the wet cultivation is concerned, with the largest forest area in the Presidency, this district has the poorest wet cultivation, and the people of Coimbatore, I think, have got a right to ask for something more than what they actually have now. We have also large numbers of rivers traversing the district, but unfortunately it is one of those cases where wealth is given to those who are already rich after taking it away from those who are poor. Most of the water that falls by way of rain in the Coimbatore district is collected by means of various rivers and enters the Cauvery. I am not jealous of other districts. Certainly this water is supposed to go to the benefit of the Tanjore district, but, what is more, it runs to the benefit of the Bay of Bengal. We know, Sir, that the present Law Member has expressed his sympathy, both of the lip and of the heart, in favour of water-supplies for irrigation purposes. The one great thing in his way seems to be—and I too agree with him—the unfortunate throwing out of the Irrigation Bill. Let us all expect that, as amended, the Irrigation Bill would be soon introduced and be passed very early. But there is no use of passing an Act. We have had the State Aid to Industries Act passed several months ago and still to no purpose; for the Act that is passed to be useful, there must be some schemes ready on hand, so that the Act when it comes into force might be applied. And if there is any district in the Presidency which deserves the early application of the Irrigation Act, it is Coimbatore. I have no doubt that so far as that matter is concerned, the hon. the Law Member will agree with me. Here also the question of engineers differing comes in. Several schemes, Sir, that have been considered to be feasible by one set of engineers are considered to be not feasible by another set of engineers on financial grounds. Coimbatore district is a district which does not want to lay conditions for getting its water. It is not one of those districts which say 'we have got some water and we are prepared to get more water only under such and such conditions, under such and such percentage of tax, under this condition or that'. Coimbatore has absolutely no water and it will be prepared to take water on any condition. Therefore, if the Irrigation Act is passed, there will be no trouble whatsoever in regard to the levy of a water-rate, and Coimbatore will be prepared to pay the water-rate because water at any cost is wanted. There are a number of irrigation schemes in regard to the Coimbatore district, and in answer to a question put by me, the hon. the Law Member has been pleased to say both yesterday and

11th December 1923] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiar]

which are technically outside the municipal limits and for which the Government are expected to supply water, the share that the municipality will have to bear will be considerably reduced. That is a question which can be settled only by a mixed committee. No doubt, the Government will claim that their share ought to be very low, whereas the municipality will always be prepared to say and maintain that since these estates do not pay even the ordinary municipal taxes, their share for the water scheme ought to be more.

"Secondly, Sir, the question of centage charges has been standing in the way of water-supply and drainage schemes of many other local institutions. I believe that several other institutions are suffering on account of the very heavy centage charges made by the Government. In this case the major portion of the estimates consists of pipes. Piping, if I remember aright, accounts for about 30 lakhs and odd out of the 44 lakhs. And for this piping, all the expenditure the Government will have to incur will be the percentage they will have to pay to the High Commissioner in England for making the purchases. That will probably be 5 per cent or so. After paying that 5 per cent or so to the High Commissioner who makes the purchases in England, the Government wants to make 30 per cent out of this estimate for being a sort of intermediary. That is practically taking away with one hand what they are going to give with the other. If the Government make a contribution of 50 per cent and take away in the name of centage this 30 per cent, all that the Government would be actually contributing will be only 20 per cent and not 50 per cent.

(At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the Chair.)

"So this is a matter in which a committee will be of use in deciding the actual centage that the Government will have to charge. As I said before, not only the Coimbatore Municipality but a number of other bodies have been in the same position. So if a proper committee is appointed and it decides this question of centage, it will be a guiding principle to be followed in other cases also. So, in these two matters, in actually settling the contribution that will have to be borne by the Government for the supply of water to the Government buildings mentioned by me and for fixing these centage charges, a committee of officials and non-officials will be of use and will also be able to bring the scheme within the range of possibility. Otherwise, probably correspondence will go on and there will be no chance of a solution in the near future.

"Then, Sir, there is a third matter which has to be considered and it is this. If, after considering all these things, the municipality is not able to bear its share of the expenditure, what is to be done? That is a question which has also to be considered. Coimbatore has been waiting for her water-supply for several decades, not even years, and it is high time that something definite is done. If this particular scheme is too costly, and if after considering all the facts it is not found to be feasible, it will be necessary to pitch upon an alternative scheme. There have been several schemes considered already and one of these schemes came very near the sanctioning point. I believe there was a scheme for taking water from the Chitrachavadi channel by pumping, but it had been given up ultimately because objections were raised by wet ayacut holders that the water-supply would not be sufficient for irrigating their lands and also supplying the Coimbatore town, and that they would suffer if water was going to be taken away from the channel for supplying the Coimbatore town.

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [11th December 1923]

they can be taken up now. In fact, there are a number of smaller schemes which but for this Mettur project can be gone through. There are a number of streams which run to the west and fall into the Arabian Sea. There is the Amaravati reservoir scheme where a big reservoir may be built and can be made use of. There are several such schemes of smaller importance. Some of them have not come to the notice of the experts ; some of them have been left out of consideration for financial reasons. Even if the Irrigation Bill becomes an Act, only a very few schemes could be effected which are found by the Government to be very necessary. I am only asking for the appointment of a committee to decide as to which of these schemes may be found feasible to be taken up immediately. Many of the ryots are prepared to pay some hundreds for the initial cost of any such undertaking. All that I ask for is a committee to be appointed to investigate this matter. If there are some schemes that may be taken up as soon as the Irrigation Bill is passed by this House, their consideration may be taken up even now without any more delay. Schemes such as those that will not cost the Government very much may very well be taken up now. The only question to be considered in accepting my suggestion for the appointment of a committee is with regard to the travelling allowance for the members that form the committee. I am sure that no member is going to ask for allowances for travelling in his own district. With regard to the Government Members, they can easily arrange this by holding the meetings when they pay visits to those places. The appointment of a committee may, at the worst, prove useless. It is not going to do any harm. With these few words, I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, I beg to second the motion moved by my Friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. Coimbatore is one of those districts which are entirely dependent on the rains. The irrigation facilities that we have got are not much to speak of at this moment. Coimbatore and probably Salem come only next to the Ceded Districts with reference to their dependence on the rains and the precariousness of water-supply in every way. But unfortunately, Sir, as in the case of the Ceded Districts, in Coimbatore and Salem also, very little attention has been paid for increasing the irrigation facilities ; probably because we have not got many schemes of a big character which will draw special attention from the Government. At the present moment, several parts of the district have not had enough rain and in other parts there is a very great scarcity both for grain as well as for fodder. The kist season is coming and the money market is very tight and the people are in a very awkward position indeed. Cattle are being sold at the present moment for about a third of the price they were originally purchased for. The position can be met only by increasing the irrigation facilities in the district. There are some isolated schemes of irrigation which have not drawn the attention of the Government. There are again schemes proposed during the last year or the year before last which have been held up on account of the proposals regarding the Mettur project. There is the Bhavani river which can be made more useful. There are several hundred acres which can be brought under wet cultivation with water from its channels. For every such advancement, the Mettur project seems to be the only obstacle. These are all matters which need not be kept over until the Mettur project is disposed of. I know of some cases which came up before the Collector a year or two ago in which the engineers were of opinion that

11th December 1923] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiar]

water was available for additional wet ayacut ; but the Chief Engineer has thought it fit to issue orders that all schemes for utilizing the available water should be postponed. This seems to be an unnecessary order and an order which works much to the detriment of the people. The question whether the increase in the wet ayacut will affect the Mettur project or not could have been gone into and decided without waiting further.

“ Then, Sir, the hon. the Law Member just now stated that the new Mettur project was not going to affect the water-supply in the district of Coimbatore. Bhavani is one of the rivers in connexion with which there have been two schemes for the construction of reservoirs. These schemes were once investigated, and I believe one was given up as not feasible and the other is pending, I suppose, further investigation. Here again, Sir, as I submitted, these schemes for improvement of irrigation in the district of Coimbatore are made to depend on the execution of the Mettur project. I do not say that a big scheme like that should be given up or postponed if we are going to add a few hundred acres under wet ayacut by other schemes of a smaller nature. What I would submit is that the investigation necessary might be made now whether a reservoir in Bhavani will seriously affect the Mettur project, and if it will not, we need not wait till the Mettur project is completed. That is what I would urge, Sir.

“ It has been said that the Siruvani project can be utilized as an irrigation project also. I am not sure whether investigation has sufficiently advanced so as to make it an irrigation scheme as well. I would very much be obliged for information on the matter from the hon. the Law Member. I believe, Sir,— it was once said, I do not remember officially or non-officially—that only about 1,000 acres can be benefited under the Noyyal by the Siruvani scheme. Probably, in Malabar it may be possible to put up dams and turn the western course of some rivers there eastward into Coimbatore, and I do not know whether investigation has been made as to the possibility of turning some of these in the direction indicated. Without any use to the Malabar district itself, these are flowing towards the west into the Arabian Sea. I know that some at least of the engineers are of opinion that it is possible to turn a few at least of these streams. There are again smaller schemes like improvement of tanks so as to make water available for one or two villages. One such scheme was sanctioned last year—the Ukkaram tank scheme. These can be taken up if the actual cost of the schemes is worked out. As my hon. Colleague from Coimbatore has said, the ryots will be very glad indeed to pay a reasonable rate of wet assessment and also some little inclusion fee, so that these schemes that were probably once thought not feasible could be now investigated, taken up and executed. These are matters which ought to be considered by the Government in detail with the help of an expert committee. I am really sorry that the irrigation division was abolished. I was one of those who thought that a division like that would be of great use. Some agency there ought to be which can take up one after another the schemes and investigate each and find out whether they are feasible or not. So, if we want to make real progress in this matter, it seems to be absolutely necessary that we ought to have an expert agency to go into them in detail and come to a decision.

“ Probably a committee of experts to look into the upper
12-45 p.m. Bhavani and lower Bhavani schemes will be able to go into the question and finally dispose of the matter. With regard to the smaller schemes, a committee consisting of experts and non-officials will be useful.

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiar] [11th December 1923]

The co-operation of the people will always be necessary. There are two causes for the appointment of a committee, viz., to come to a final decision and forcing the decision upon the Government. It is absolutely necessary that something on the lines suggested by my hon. Colleague should be done, and I hope the Government will accept the spirit of this resolution."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, here again, let me be allowed to make some observations with regard to certain matters which have been stated both by the hon. the Mover of the resolution and the hon. the Seconder which do not strictly appertain to the discussion on hand. A certain number of remarks have been made upon the obstruction caused or assumed to have been caused by the Cauvery-Mettur project in regard to the fruition of the Coimbatore scheme. So far as that is concerned, the obstacle has been more financial than anything else, save in regard to one scheme as to which I shall have to make a few remarks later. As hon. Members of this House are aware, the Cauvery-Mettur scheme is not designed primarily to serve the interests of the Coimbatore district as such. But hon. Members will also bear in mind that by that scheme a portion of the upper tracts of the Tanjore district which is practically uncultivable now will become a regular garden and 275,000 acres or nearly a quarter million acres will come under cultivation by virtue of that scheme. Therefore, if you look at the larger interest of the Presidency and see things in proper perspective, hon. Members of this House will no doubt come to the conclusion that, albeit that one particular district may not directly be benefited, the sum total of the advantage gained is a matter which will outweigh the other consideration. I am sure that I can count upon the hon. the Mover for complete and whole-hearted assent to the proposition that I have put forward."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Fully, Sir; I never said a word against the Mettur scheme at all. I only said that it should not be assumed that Coimbatore expected anything from that scheme."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I expected that and I am glad. Another remark was made by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiar in regard to the comparative neglect of the Ceded Districts and of Coimbatore and Salem. So far as that is concerned, hon. Members of this House know that at present there is under investigation a great project called the Sangameswaram project which if it comes will be the almost largest project in India, if not of the whole world, and which will make the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts a garden. (Hear, hear).

"Let me, with these introductory remarks, turn to the Coimbatore irrigation schemes. So far as they are concerned, there are a number of minor schemes which have been under investigation and in respect of some of which the investigation has been completed. There is, for instance, the Kaniyampalayam anicut which project consists of the construction of an anicut across the Bhavani for irrigation of 400 to 600 acres in Satyamangalam taluk. The land-owners have agreed to pay a special water-rate of Rs. 10 an acre. A big project costing Rs. 97,000 has now been completed. It has therefore to be seen that when and wherever it has been possible to push through and complete a scheme, though it did not relate to favoured districts or favoured persons, Coimbatore has not been ignored. Then there is the Siruvani water-supply and irrigation scheme. The question is by no means at an end. It is not difficult to devise a scheme which will really bring under irrigation to

11th December 1923] [Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

the extent of 3,000 acres. There are two alternatives to the scheme. One of the two alternatives is a new anicut and channel in the upper regions of the Noyel which will benefit a single big landholder. That question has received the most careful consideration of the Government and will continue to attract their attention. The question is whether a project which will benefit a single big landholder is preferable to another. The question is one which involves engineering consideration as well as financial and other considerations. The two rival projects are under scrutiny by Mr. Hawkins and I am expecting his report on the subject. I shall place the paper on the table of this House in order that hon. Members of this House may come to their own conclusion. Then, in answer to certain questions of my hon. and indefatigable Friend, the Member for Coimbatore, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, the matter has been made clear that in the Kollegal taluk there were as many as five schemes which are actually under contemplation and investigation. Now, I am mentioning all these circumstances for the purpose of assuring the hon. Members of this House that irrigation schemes in the Coimbatore as well as the other districts receive the careful scrutiny and attention of the Government and they are not ignoring one district at the expense of a richer and more favoured district.

"To come to the subject-matter of the resolution which is simply a request for the appointment of a committee, let me, with your permission, Mr. President, make a few remarks on that. What is this committee to do at the present moment? Members of this House have in their hands a careful and exhaustive report of Mr. Morgan who has gone into the irrigation projects of these districts and come to certain conclusions. I do not say that these are final and cannot be improved. But it gives us something to proceed upon. The committee, if appointed, of officials and non-officials will have to go into these schemes and I have before me at least thirteen schemes on which materials have been gathered."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Do all the thirteen belong to the Coimbatore district?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Yes. Some are large and some are small. We have got the investigation reports in respect of these matters. We have got the materials gathered and figures are ready. Now, it seems to me that it will be a much better plan if the hon. Members representing that district were to put themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer and the Member in charge of the portfolio who I am sure will be ready to place at their disposal all the connected papers in their possession. They can see for themselves whether anything requires further scrutiny. Then the Chief Engineer can be made to consult some people in the locality before coming to any conclusion. Having a general committee like that proposed by the hon. Member will, in my humble opinion, serve no useful purpose. Perhaps they will go into the materials which have been gathered already, make up their minds and advise the Government. The appointment of a committee of this kind merely with the object of investigation will not only not serve any useful purpose, but, on the other hand, will retard the actual inauguration and speedy completion of works actually ready."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Sir, I want only to make a few remarks on this motion. I have no idea to make any humorous speech with big and bombastic words. I sympathise with the proposition. I have no faith in appointing

[Mr. R. Veerian]

[11th December 1923]

committees. If we appoint committees, it is something like appointing too many cooks. One will say that salt is too much, another will say chillies are too much, and a third one will say that tamarind is not sufficient. I am afraid that the committee will come to that. If you have a committee as the hon. Member wishes, you will have laymen also nominated there. It will be a mere waste of money, because they will receive travelling allowances and nothing will be done practically. The hon. the Law Member has rightly stated that the financial condition also should be taken into consideration. It is true that expert opinion should be considered. Therefore, I should like to say that the Government may be requested to improve the irrigation facilities either by appointing a special officer, or by asking their staff to do the needful in the matter. Therefore, Sir, without wasting much time in the matter, I have suggested my opinion and I hope the hon. the Law Member will give the consideration that it deserves."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I am glad to say, Sir, that I have had the usual sympathy and a little more of it from the hon. the Law Member.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I had intended to say and I repeat, that it is not the usual sympathy, if by that the hon. Member merely means formal sympathy.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“This is not only usual sympathy ; this is not only formal sympathy, but something more than all that. The hon. Member has not said what will be done if we take his kind advice after consulting the local engineering officers. I have taken all the steps suggested by him. I have written to the Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer. I requested them to put into action the sympathy of the Chief Engineer and it was only a few days ago that the Executive Engineer came to examine four schemes in Kollegal. The Chief Engineer has been pleased to ask him to go into the question.”

1 p.m. The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I can direct the Chief Engineer to go to Udumalpet, if necessary.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I am very glad, Sir, that the Chief Engineer too will come to Udumalpet. He must go not only to Udumalpet, but also to other places such as Kollegal and Gopichettipalaiyam. The object of appointing the committee is—if I had not already made it clear—to facilitate the work to be done under the Irrigation Act wherever the schemes are already feasible, otherwise than financially. This committee of officials and non-officials—some of them belonging also to the Coimbatore district—will be able to take the advice of the leading ryots in the various taluks and make them agree to pay either a lump sum by way of advance to carry out the projects or an additional cess by way of water-tax or both if necessary. That is my object in asking for the appointment of a committee. Now that the hon. the Law Member has said that the Chief Engineer will go to that district, I have no objection to wait for the formation of the committee till the Chief Engineer visits the district. I am glad that the hon. the Law Member has said that there are some projects still under consideration. I thought from the Blue Book prepared by the Chief Engineer on the irrigation projects in the Presidency till now that some of them had been abandoned ; but now I learn they are still under consideration. Therefore, if the hon. the Law Member is prepared

11th December 1923] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

to appoint the committee later on, after the visit of the Chief Engineer to the district, for the purpose of carrying out the schemes, I have no objection to withdraw this resolution now."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I would advise my hon. Friend to wait until the Irrigation Bill becomes law. There are provisions in it tending to make matters easy with regard to this particular topic. The question of enabling ryots in a particular locality to combine for the purpose of putting the schemes into effect is a matter specially dealt with in that Bill. Further, it is not necessary for me now to make up my mind one way or the other. I may assure him that if at any time non-official opinion is insistent, I have no objection to appoint local or general committees. But I do not want him to pledge me to any such thing now especially as the Irrigation Bill contains the contemplated machinery to effectuate the objects which my hon. Friend has in his mind."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I never want to bind anybody by pledges, especially the Members of Government. With that assurance of the hon. Member, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUGARCAKE FARM IN THE WESTERN TALUKS OF
BELLARY DISTRICT

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move:—

5. *That this Council recommends to the Government to establish a sugarcane farm in the western taluks of the Bellary district.*

"Sir, in the Hospet taluk which is included in the area I have mentioned in my resolution, there is no less than 7,000 acres of wet land under sugarcane crop every year. I think I may say without fear of contradiction that there are few places, if any, in the Presidency which are better suited than this taluk for the location of a sugarcane factory. I know that for a factory to succeed, there must be a certain amount of co-operation among the ryots concerned. But hon. Members of this House may rest assured that so far as the co-operative movement is concerned, it has advanced very much in the taluk I have referred to. There is a Co-operative Bank which is working very successfully in that taluk. There are also a number of societies working equally well in the entire taluk and I have no doubt that in addition to these societies we will have a number of agricultural co-operative societies also to help us hereafter, in whatever work we undertake. So, then, by the help of these co-operative societies and co-operative banks, the ryots can be persuaded to dispose of their sugarcane by sending it to the sugarcane factory for crushing purposes. At present the ryots are labouring under a great disadvantage in the matter of crushing their sugarcane. There is very little time left between the harvest and the time required for pressing sugarcane and the sowing. The result is that they are unable to bestow the requisite attention in regard to the sowing of sugarcane. If, therefore, there is a sugar crushing factory and if facilities are afforded to the ryots to bring their produce to the factory for crushing purposes, it will be a great boon to the ryots of that area.

"Again, there is much scope for improvement in the yield of the sugarcane in this area. At present the yield is not, I think, even half as much as what it is in the Gōdāvari district and in parts of the South Arcot district.